

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**Office of the Secretary****Bureau of International Labor Affairs;
U.S. National Administrative Office;
North American Agreement on Labor
Cooperation; Notice of Request for
Comment**

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, Labor.
ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Article 10(1)(a) of the North American Agreement on Labor Cooperation (NAALC) calls for the Council for the Commission for Labor Cooperation to review the operation and effectiveness of the NAALC within four years of its entry into force. In order to undertake the review, the Council agreed to a process which includes seeking public input. A notice was issued (62 Fed. Reg. 61552). The time period within which to comment is being extended. Written comments are requested.

DATES: Written comments on the operation and effectiveness of the NAALC should be submitted by January 30, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to the U.S. National Administrative Office, U.S. Department of Labor, Room C-4327, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20210 or the Secretariat, Commission for Labor Cooperation, 350 North St. Paul, Suite 2424, Dallas, Texas 75201-4240.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Irasema T. Garza, Secretary, U.S. National Administrative Office, Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Room C-4327, Washington, DC 20210. Telephone: (202) 501-6653 (this is not a toll-free number).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The North American Agreement on Labor Cooperation (NAALC) was signed by the Presidents of the United States of America, and of the United Mexican States, and the Prime Minister of Canada in September 1993 and entered into force on January 1, 1994. Article 10(1)(a) of the NAALC provides that the Council shall "oversee the implementation and develop recommendations on the further elaboration of this Agreement and, to this end, the Council shall, within four years after the date of entry into force of this Agreement, review its operation and effectiveness in light of the experience * * *." The Council agreed to a process of review that includes issuing an invitation for written public comments on the operation and effectiveness of the NAALC. Written

comments may be made to the National Administrative Office or to the international Secretariat. Any comments received by the U.S. National Administrative office will be transmitted verbatim to the Secretariat, which has been delegated the responsibility by the Council to oversee the review process.

Signed at Washington, DC on December 11, 1997.

Irasema T. Garza,

Secretary, U.S. National Administrative Office.

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**Occupational Safety and Health
Administration**

[Docket No. ICR 97-46]

**Agency Information Collection
Activities: Proposed Collection;
Comment Request; Hazard
Communication**

ACTION: Extension of comment period; Supplemental Information.

SUMMARY: On November 21, 1997, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) published a **Federal Register** notice soliciting comments concerning the proposed extension of the information collection request for the Hazard Communication Standard 29 CFR 1910.1200; 1915; 1918; 1926, and 1928. With this notice, OSHA is providing supplemental information and extending the close of the comment period from January 20, 1998 to February 19, 1998.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted to the office listed in the **ADDRESSES** section below on or before February 19, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Comments are to be submitted to the Docket Office, Docket No. ICR-97-46, U.S. Department of Labor, Room N-2625, 200 Constitution Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20210, telephone (202) 219-7894. Written comments limited to 10 pages or less in length may also be transmitted by facsimile to (202) 219-5046.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Adrian Corsey, Directorate of Health Standards Programs, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, Room N-3718, 200 Constitution Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20210. Telephone: (202) 219-7075 extension 105. Copies of the referenced information collection request are available for inspection and copying in

the Docket Office and will be mailed to persons who request copies by telephoning Adrian Corsey (202) 219-7057 extension 105, or Barbara Bielaski on 219-8076, extension 142. For electronic copies of the Hazard Communication Information Collection Request, contact the Labor News Bulletin Board (202) 219-4784; or OSHA's WebPage on Internet at <http://www.osha.gov/> and click on standards.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: OSHA requested public comment on the proposed extension of the Hazard Communication Standard (HCS) Information Collection Request on November 21, 1997 (92 FR 62355). The deadline for submitting comments was January 20, 1998. The November 21, 1997, **Federal Register** notice estimated the total burden hours for hazard communication to be 7,301,762 hours. This notice provides additional information regarding the burden hour estimate. Specifically, the Agency is proposing to reduce the burden hours for HCS from 13,198,751 to 7,301,762 hours, a burden reduction of 5,896,991 hours. The majority of this burden reduction resulted when the Agency eliminated the burden it had assigned to the task of affixing labels to certain containers. Under the implementing rules and regulations of the Paperwork Reduction Act, activities that are normal and customary are not counted when assessing the burden associated with a collection of information. The Agency believes that placing labels on containers is a normal and customary business practice for manufacturers and importers of hazardous chemicals. OSHA's revised estimates include only the burden to develop (i.e., determine) the specific information required by OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard that is beyond normal and customary business practices. To support the Agency's belief that affixing labels in normal and customary, OSHA points out that the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Transportation, the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and the Food and Drug Administration require labeling. In addition, international standards require labeling. OSHA also believes that manufacturers normally affix labels to identify and promote their products.

In the November 21, 1997 **Federal Register** Notice on this collection of information, OSHA did not fully explain how it arrived at its estimated reduction. For this reason OSHA believes it is reasonable and appropriate to provide this supplemental information and to give commenters an additional 30 days to comment on the